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| TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing) | Application Number | 10/771,644 |
| | Filing Date | February 4, 2004 |
| | First Named Inventor | Curtis W. Brown |
| | Art Unit | 3617 |
| | Examiner Name | Jesus D. Sotelo |
| Total Number of Pages in This Submission | Attorney Docket Number | BRWN:001US |

| ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply) | | |
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| Firm Name | Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P. (Customer No. 32425) | | |
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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:
Curtis W. Brown

Serial No.: 10/771,644

Filed: February 4, 2004

For: APPARATUSES AND METHODS
USEFUL FOR CENTERING
WATERCRAFT

Group Art Unit: 3617

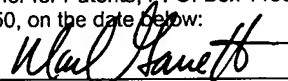
Examiner: Sotelo, Jesus D.

Atty. Dkt. No.: BRWN:001US/MTG

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
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Mark T. Garrett

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
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Commissioner:

The Examiner states "[t]he prior art does not disclose an apparatus for centering watercraft including a pair of float arms, each arm including a passageway that [is] substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the watercraft, and a frame to which each float arm [is] pivotally coupled, wherein the frame includes a bar to which one of the float arms is pivotally coupled, generally as claimed." The Examiner's statement is true, but it should not be taken as an admission by Applicant that all the claims are patentable for the specific reason stated by the

Examiner. Instead, the public should understand that the claims are patentable for at least the reasons set forth below:

Independent claim 24 is patentable because the prior art fails to teach or suggest an apparatus comprising a pair of float arms configured to help center a watercraft having a longitudinal watercraft axis, each float arm having a passageway that is substantially parallel to the longitudinal watercraft axis; and a frame to which both float arms are pivotally coupled, the frame having a bar to which one of the float arms is pivotally coupled, the bar being long enough for at least two float arms to be pivotally coupled to the bar.

Independent claim 27 is patentable because the prior art fails to teach or suggest an apparatus comprising a pair of float arms configured to help center a watercraft having a longitudinal watercraft axis, at least one of the float arms having a length and a first structure that is configured to be pivotally coupled to a watercraft docking structure, the first structure being not centered along the length; and a frame to which both float arms are pivotally coupled, the frame having a bar to which one of the float arms is pivotally coupled, the bar being long enough for at least two float arms to be pivotally coupled to the bar.

Independent claim 31 is patentable because the prior art fails to teach or suggest an apparatus useful for centering a watercraft, comprising a first float arm having a first float arm length, the first float arm being configured to (a) be pivotally coupled to a watercraft docking structure, and (b) pivot about a first axis that is not centered along the first float arm length; and a second float arm having a second float arm length, the second float arm being configured to (a) be pivotally coupled to a watercraft docking structure, and (b) pivot about a second axis that is not centered along the second float arm length, the first and second axes being laterally spaced

apart from each other; where the first and second float arms are configured to be pivotally coupled to a frame that is configured to be pivotally coupled to a trailer.

Independent claim 43 is patentable because the prior art fails to teach or suggest an apparatus useful for centering a watercraft, comprising a first float arm having a first float arm length, the first float arm being configured to (a) be pivotally coupled to a watercraft docking structure, and (b) pivot about a first axis that is not centered along the first float arm length; and a second float arm having a second float arm length, the second float arm being configured to (a) be pivotally coupled to a watercraft docking structure, and (b) pivot about a second axis that is not centered along the second float arm length, the first and second axes being laterally spaced apart from each other; where the first and second float arms are configured to be pivotally coupled to a frame that is configured to be pivotally coupled to a watercraft-lifting system.

Should any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be required for any reason relating to this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct the appropriate fees from Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P. Deposit Account No. 50-1212/BRWN:001US.

Respectfully submitted,



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